

# NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF  
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**





Welcome to the New Jersey Veterans Benefits Guide. This guide continues a tradition to provide relevant information to New Jersey's Veterans community.

Keeping you informed is part of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) continuing outreach efforts. Through extensive research and preparation, NJDMAVA has assembled valuable material into this edition of the Veterans Benefits Guide. Many New Jersey Veterans are unaware of the numerous federal and state program benefits, entitlements and services they have earned in defense of this great nation.

Our website at [www.nj.gov/military/veterans](http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans) acts as a portal to assist New Jersey's Veterans in obtaining information they need to access benefits and services more efficiently and effectively.

We encourage you to contact the Department's Veterans Service Officers for additional information and assistance when applying for a program, benefit or entitlement.

"Serving those who served" are more than just our watchwords at NJDMAVA; it is a promise that we will support those, whose service and sacrifice have ensured this nation's survival.

**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**  
**1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)**  
**[www.nj.gov/military/veterans](http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans)**

## **MEDICAL**

United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Administration (VA)  
(800) 827-1000



## **VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS HEALTH ELIGIBILITY CENTER (877) 222-8387**

For eligibility and additional information: (877) 222-8387. You may also visit the website at: [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility)

### **VA MEDICAL CENTERS/CLINICS**

#### **New Jersey**

- East Orange Campus, 385 Tremont Avenue (973) 676-1000
- Lyons Campus, 151 Knollcroft Road (908) 647-0180
- Brick, James J. Howard Clinic, 970 Route 70 (732) 206-8900
- Camden Clinic, 300 Broadway, Suite 103 (877) 232-5240
- Cape May Clinic, 1 Munro Avenue (800) 461-8262 Ext. 2850
- Elizabeth Clinic, 654 East Jersey Street, Suite 2A (908) 994-0120
- Fort Dix Clinic, 5437 8th & Alabama Street (609) 562-2999
- Hackensack Clinic, 385 Prospect Avenue (201) 487-1390 / (201) 342-4536
- Hamilton Clinic, 3635 Quakerbridge Road (609) 570-6600
- Jersey City Clinic, 115 Christopher Columbus Drive (201) 435-3055
- Morristown Clinic, 340 West Hanover Avenue (973) 539-9791/9794
- Northfield Clinic, 1909 New Road (800) 461-8262 Ext. 2800
- Paterson Clinic, 11 Getty Ave, Bldg. 275 (973) 247-1666
- Piscataway Clinic, 14 Wills Way, Bldg. 4 (732) 981-8193
- Sewell Clinic, 211 County House Road (877) 823-5230
- Tinton Falls Clinic, 55 N. Gilbert Street, Bldg. 4 (732) 842-4751
- Vineland Clinic, 1051 W. Sherman Avenue, Bldg. 3 (800) 461-8262 Ext. 6500

#### **Philadelphia**

- University & Woodland Avenue (215)823-5800/ (800) 949-1001
- Coatesville-1400 Black Horse Hill Road, (610) 384-7711

#### **Delaware**

- 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington (302) 994-2511 / (800) 461-8262

[www.va.gov/directory/](http://www.va.gov/directory/) is the website for New Jersey, Philadelphia and Wilmington VA Medical Center facilities, with contact numbers and explanations of benefits.

## **EYEGASSES, HEARING AIDS AND DENTAL CARE/HEALTH INSURANCE**

Eye glasses and hearing aids normally require a service rating of 10 percent or more. Routine dental treatment for teeth or jaw is provided to Veterans who are 100 percent service-connected, have a service-connected dental disability or are former prisoners of war. For active duty and retired members of the Uniformed Services, their families and survivors; contact TRICARE Military Health Care Program, Northeast Region, call (877) **TRI-CARE** (874-2273) or visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

## HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN

Many VA hospitals have VA Women Veterans Health Centers whose services include gynecology, sexual trauma counseling, mammography screening and transition assistance programs for women separating from the Armed Forces. [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

## CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS (855)829-6636

Washington, DC (202) 273-6193, or call the VA (800) 827-1000 to find out if your local VA hospital has a Women Veterans Health Center.

Women's Health Issues (973) 676-1000 Ext. 1695

VA Mammography Hotline (888) 492-7844

## VA ID Card

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides eligible Veterans with a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) for use at VA medical facilities. The VIC protects the privacy of Veterans' sensitive information, as it no longer displays the social security number or date of birth on the front of the card. Only Veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits will receive the card.

The card's purpose is for identification and check-in at VA appointments. Veterans should safeguard their VIC similar to other identification cards that contain personal information.

Veterans are warned to keep their VIC safe and secure. Some bar code readers, including those available as cell phone applications, can scan the bar code on the front of the card, and reveal the Veteran's social security number. This could make the Veteran subject to identity theft if the card is lost or stolen.

If the VIC is lost or stolen, Veterans should contact the VA medical facility where they took their picture to request a new card be re-issued. Since the photo is retained, there is no need for the Veteran to go to the VA to retake a picture for the card. Identifying information such as name and other information will be asked to assure proper identification of the caller.

If the Veteran does not receive the card in the 7-10 day timeframe, the Veteran should contact the local VA medical facility where the card was requested or call VA at (877) 222-VETS (8387).

For more information, go to [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/access/veteran\\_identification\\_card.asp](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/access/veteran_identification_card.asp)

## LOCAL VET CENTERS

Vet Centers offer broad readjustment services. They focus on counseling for military traumas, employment and family problems. They also provide referral services for VA benefits, medical assistance, and liaison with community agencies. Individual and group counseling are available for Veterans and their significant others.

The centers also provide substance abuse information, referrals and job counseling (800) 905-4675.

### New Jersey

#### Bloomfield Vet Center

2 Broad Street, Suite 703

Bloomfield NJ 07003

(973) 748-0980

**Lakewood Vet Center**  
1255 Route 70; Unit 32N  
Parkway Seventy Plaza  
Lakewood NJ 08701  
*(908) 607-6364*

**Secaucus Vet Center**  
110A Meadowlands Parkway, Suite 102  
Secaucus NJ 07094  
*(201) 223-7787*

**Trenton Vet Center**  
934 Parkway Avenue, Suite 201  
Ewing NJ 08618  
*(609) 882-5744*

**Ventnor Vet Center**  
6601 Ventnor Avenue, Suite 105  
Ventnor Building, Ventnor NJ 08406  
*(609) 487-8387*

**Pennsylvania**  
2 Canals End Plaza, Suite 201B  
Bristol, PA 19007  
*(215) 823-4590*

101 E. Olney Avenue,  
Philadelphia, PA 19120  
*(215) 924-4670*

801 Arch Street, Suite 502  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
*(215) 627-0238*

**New York**  
726 E. Main Street  
Middletown, NY 10940  
*(845) 342-9917*

50 Richmond Terrace  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
*(718) 816-4499*

**To find your local Vet Center, call (800) 827-1000**

**Online at:**

**[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)**

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The state of New Jersey offers a program that addresses the readjustment problems of Veterans and offers treatment to combat Veterans of all war periods.

Treatment is extended to the family members affected by the Veteran's affliction. State Veterans Service Officers can assist with scheduling counseling and filing of any applicable VA claims. Contracted clinicians, experienced in PTSD counseling, determine the best course of treatment for the Veteran and the Veteran's family.

For more information contact a local Veterans' Service Officer or contact **(888) 8NJ-VETS**

## NJ VET TO VET HELPLINE

**(866) 838-7654**

**[www.njveteranshelpline.org](http://www.njveteranshelpline.org)**

NJ Vet to Vet, is operated by Rutgers University and funded by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, is a peer-counseling program for assessing a Veteran's mental health needs. This toll-free help line is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week for Veterans and their families. Services include: Veteran peer support, family support, clinical assessment, case management, referrals to a network of mental health providers, web-based peer support and live chat.



## SUICIDE PREVENTION

**(800) 273-8255 (TALK)**

### *Recognizing suicide warning signs:*

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.
- Hopelessness, anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Pick up the phone if you are experiencing an emotional crisis and need to talk to a trained VA professional.

**(800) 273-8255 (TALK)**

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Vet Centers and VA Medical Facilities have substance abuse treatment programs. See page 2 for a list of locations. You may also refer to Alcoholics Anonymous at **(800) 245-1377**.

## Homeless Veterans Treatment Programs

**(888) 725-3000**

## **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

**Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)**

**Soldier On**  
*(866) 406-8449*

**Community Hope**  
*(855) 483-8466*

**Volunteers of America**  
*(856) 854-4660*

**Coaching Into Care**  
*(888) 823-7458*

**Operation Red Shield – The Salvation Army**  
*(888) 302-6100*

**Homeless Veterans**  
*(877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838)*

**Veterans Caregivers Support Line**  
*(855) 260-3274*

**Community Justice Center (Trenton)**  
*(609) 218-5120*

**Catholic Charities**  
*(855) 767-8387*

**Jewish Family Services**  
*(609) 822-1108*

**Wounded Warrior Project**  
*(877) 832-6997*

[www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

**Salvation Army**  
*(908) 851-9300*

**USO (United Service Organization)**  
Provides information and recreation services to uniformed military personnel.  
*(888) 484-3876*  
[www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**  
*(888) 8NJ-VETS (888-865-8387)*  
[www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)

**US Department of Veterans Affairs**

*(800) 827-1000*

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**VA Affordable Care Act**

*(877) 222-VETS (8387)*

**GI Bill**

*(888) 442-4551*

[www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)

**VA Life Insurance**

*(800) 669-8477*

**Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War)**

*(800) 749-8387*

**Direct Deposit**

*(877) 838-2778*

**Headstone (status of claims only)**

*(800) 697-6947*

**Device for Deaf (TDD)**

*(800) 829-4833*

**New Jersey State Family Programs Office**

*(888) 859-0352*

**HOUSING**

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET) provides housing for homeless, disabled and low-to-moderate income Veterans, and general home ownership assistance.

*(800) 998-9999*

Email: [hudvet@hud.gov](mailto:hudvet@hud.gov)

[www.hud.gov/hudvet](http://www.hud.gov/hudvet)

**HOMELESS**

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans provides help for homeless Veterans nationwide. Call to find a local shelter *(800) VET-HELP*

VA New Jersey Health Care System Program for Homeless Veterans at:

*(908) 647-0180 ext. 1-4217, (973) 645-3769*

Treatment & Rehabilitation Screening *(888) 725-3000*

**Transitional Housing Program**

**Veterans Haven North**

*(908) 537-1963*

**Veterans Haven South**

*(609) 561-0269*

**NJ Homeless Prevention Program**  
*(609) 633-6150*

**Hope House for Women with Children**  
*(201) 420-1070*

**Homeless Multipurpose Center, Philadelphia**  
*(215) 923-2600*

## **HOME KEEPER PROGRAM**

New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA)  
637 South Clinton Avenue  
P.O. Box 18550  
Trenton, NJ 08650  
[www.njhousing.gov](http://www.njhousing.gov)

**Home Keeper Call Center**  
*(877) 496-4951*  
[www.njhomekeeper.nj.gov](http://www.njhomekeeper.nj.gov)

## **STAND DOWN**

Assists New Jersey's homeless Veterans "combat" life on the streets by providing necessities ranging from food and clothing to medical, legal and mental health services. The committees are always looking for volunteers. If you need assistance or would like to volunteer, contact **(888) 8NJ-VETS (865-8387)**.

## **HOME LOANS**

Veterans can apply for a VA home loan with any mortgage lender that participates in the VA home loan program, call **(888) 244-6711**, or visit: [www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans](http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans)

## **NEW JERSEY PROPERTY TAX BENEFITS**

The New Jersey Property Tax Exemption/Deduction requires a Veteran to serve during a specific war time period. Any time served after 1975 requires the Veteran to have served at least 14 days in a combat zone (Haiti Operation Uphold Democracy is not approved for tax deduction/exemption purposes).

Disabled Veteran Exemption requires a 100 % VA Certificate of Disability. The exemption should be permanent and total, partial or temporary is non-qualifying. The property must be owned and occupied by the claimant, and must be their legal residence in this state.

An annual \$250 Veterans Property Tax Deduction requires citizenship, state residency, active wartime service in the U.S. Armed Forces, honorable discharge, property ownership, and the timely completion of an application. If living, the Veteran must own the property in whole or in part to qualify for the deduction. Surviving spouse qualifies if all criteria are met. Eligibility for the deduction is established as of October 1 of the pre-tax year. The application can be filed at the local tax assessors office with appropriate documentation.

## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides advocacy for Veterans, benefits counseling and a variety of other services.

*(888) 8NJ-VETS*

[www.nj.gov/military](http://www.nj.gov/military)

## SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations assist Veterans through the VA system and advocate for Veterans' rights. They are not affiliated with the government.

### **AMVETS**

*(877) 7-AMVETS*

email: [amvets@amvets.org](mailto:amvets@amvets.org)

[www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)

### **American Legion**

*(973) 623-6298*

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

*(973) 297-3226*

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

### **Vietnam Veterans of America**

*(973) 297-3227*

[www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

### **Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)**

*(212) 982-9699*

[www.iava.org](http://www.iava.org)

### **Disabled American Veterans**

*(973) 297-3378*

[www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

### **Jewish War Veterans**

*(609) 396-2508*

[www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org)

### **Military Order of the Purple Heart**

*(973) 297-3389*

[www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)

### **NJAVSO/NACVSO**

*(973) 297-3230*

## EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Labor Veterans Program provides counseling, testing, placement and other assistance through local offices.

### **New Jersey Department of Labor One Stop Career**

Visit: [www.state.nj.us/labor/oscc/VeteransServices.html](http://www.state.nj.us/labor/oscc/VeteransServices.html)

New Jersey LVERs and DVOPs provide services to Veterans at One-Stop-Career Centers throughout the state.

For One Stop Career Centers near you, call: **(877) USA-JOBS** or visit: [www.lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/](http://www.lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/)

### **Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)**

DVOP provides job and training opportunities, with emphasis on Veterans with service-connected disabilities. DVOP specialists provide outreach and offer assistance by promoting community and employer support for employment and training opportunities, including apprenticeship and on-the-job training.

Representatives (LVERs) are state employees located in the state's employment service local offices who provide assistance to Veterans by supervising the provision of all services, including counseling, testing and identifying training and employment opportunities.

### **US Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Services**

[www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets)

### **Unemployment Insurance Hotline**

**(888) 209-8124**

## RE-EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

Returning to pre-military job:

New Jersey: **(609) 562-5550**

## VETERANS PREFERENCE/DISABLED VETERANS PREFERENCE

To be eligible for Veterans preference under New Jersey Law, one must have served on active duty during one of the following periods. Proper documentation is required: WD Form 53-55, DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter if applicable.

1. World War II: 90 days active duty on or after September 16, 1940 and must have begun on or before December 31, 1946.
2. Korean Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after June 23, 1950 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1955.
3. Vietnam Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after December 31, 1960 and must have begun on or before May 7, 1975.

To be eligible for Veterans preference under New Jersey Law for the following peacekeeping missions, one must have served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or on board any ship actively engaged in patrolling the territorial waters of that nation for a period of at least 14 days beginning on or before the date of termination of that mission or operation. Proper documentation

of DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter (if applicable) is required.

1. Lebanon Crisis: 14 days on or after July 1, 1958, commencing on or before November 1, 1958.
2. Lebanon: 14 days on or after September 26, 1982 and must have begun on or before December 1, 1987.
3. Grenada: 14 days on or after October 23, 1983 and must have begun on or before November 21, 1983.
4. Panama: 14 days on or after December 20, 1989 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1990.
5. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm: 14 days on or after August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991.
6. Somalia: 14 days on or after December 5, 1992 and must have begun on or before March 31, 1994.
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard): 14 days on or after November 20, 1995 and on or before June 20, 1998.
8. Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy): 14 days on or after September 19, 1994 and on or before March 31, 1995.
9. Operations Southern and Northern Watch: 14 days on or after August 27, 1992.
10. Operation Enduring Freedom: 14 days on or after September 11, 2001.
11. Operation Iraqi Freedom: 14 days on or after March 19, 2003.

To be eligible for disabled Veterans preference, one must be a “Veteran” as described above and must have incurred a disability for which the Veteran is receiving 10 percent or greater disability compensation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Spouses of disabled Veterans, surviving spouses of disabled Veterans or Veterans and parents of Veterans who died in service are eligible for preference, if the Veteran would have been eligible for Veterans preference. Proper documentation is required (DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter).

**NOTE:** Individuals whose only active service was for training (basic training, advanced training, officer candidate school, weekend drills, and annual training) in connection with a Reserve or National Guard obligation are not eligible for Veterans’ preference.

**NOTE:** Merchant Marine Personnel who served in World War II, and who present a DD-214 which establishes 90 days of active service during the period noted above, are entitled to Veteran’s preference.

PL 2007, Chapter 115, S2430/A3147/A3874, signed on July 18, 2007, changes when proof of veteran status is required for civil service examinations for certain Veterans. Veterans will be able to establish Veteran preference eight days prior to list issuance.

New Jersey values the contributions that our Veterans have made, and continue to make, for our country’s freedom and for other nations around the world. As such, New Jersey’s merit system provides absolute Veterans preference in employee selection. This means that qualified Veterans are placed at the top of an open competitive employment list ahead of non-Veterans regardless of their scores. Disabled Veterans and Veterans are placed on promotional lists according to their scores, but they have preference over non-Veterans when a disabled Veteran or Veteran is at the top of a certification of the list to an appointing authority.

For information on obtaining Veterans preference on CSC examinations, you must apply to the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, (888) 865-8387 by completing the Civil Service Veterans preference claim form.

### **New Jersey Civil Service for Pension Purposes**

A person is entitled to Veterans preference of Veteran status for pension purposes under the same conditions listed under Veterans Preference; the only exclusion is that Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy) is not included for pension purposes.

*(609) 530-6857 or (609) 530-6954*

### **HELMETS TO HARDHATS**

This program places men and women from the Armed Forces into building and construction careers.

*(866) 741-6210*

[www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org)

### **TROOPS TO TEACHERS**

Assists military personnel transitioning to a new career as a public school teacher. A network of state offices provides participants with assistance with certification requirements, routes to state certification and employment leads.

*(800) 680-0884*

[www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com)

### **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The SBA provides services to Veterans thinking of starting a small business.

New Jersey: *(973) 645-2434*

New York: *(212) 264-4354*

Pennsylvania: *(610) 382-3062*

Delaware: *(302) 573-6294, ext. 227*

National: *(800) 827-5722*

#### **Small Business Development Center**

Toll free for New Jersey and New York *(877) 875-VETS (8387)*

#### **Veterans Online Business Registry (VETBIZ)**

Enables Veterans to post information online about their business, to inform government and corporate buyers about their capacity to perform and inform agencies, contracting officers and businesses about their products and services. This also links to Veterans Business Outreach Centers.

*(866) 584-2344*

[www.vip.vetbiz.gov](http://www.vip.vetbiz.gov)

## **EDUCATION**

### **New Jersey State Approving Agency (SAA)**

The SAA operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, maintaining the State's authority to supervise programs at traditional colleges. The agency also approves and supervises programs at non-traditional "for profit" schools including non-degree programs, apprenticeships and other on the job training, flight, and correspondence schools. The SAA has its foundation in federal law, under Title 38, United States Code. To find out if your program of study is approved call **(609) 530-6849**.

For program specific information, contact the Veterans' Assistance Office at the educational institution.

### **POW – MIA Tuition Benefit Program**

Free undergraduate college tuition is available to any child born or adopted before, during or after the period of time his or her parent was officially declared a prisoner of war (POW) or person missing in action (MIA) after January 1, 1960. The POW – MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service or whose official residence is in New Jersey. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

### **War Orphan Tuition Assistance**

Children of those service personnel who die while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are officially listed as MIA by the U.S. Department of Defense may claim \$500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training. To qualify, the Veteran must have been a state resident and the child must be a resident. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

### **Veterans Tuition Credit Program**

Provides additional education benefits to veterans eligible for "federally funded" education programs who served on active duty from December 31, 1960 to May 7, 1975 and were legal residents of New Jersey at the time of induction into the Armed Forces or service or for a period not less than one year prior to making application. The amount of the award is \$400 annually or \$200 per semester for full-time and for part-time \$100 per semester. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

### **Financial Aid**

Veterans are advised to file FAFSA forms as well as apply for the GI Bill. Lists of scholarships, grants and financial aid available to Veterans and their dependents can be found at [www.finaid.org/military](http://www.finaid.org/military). Be sure to contact the financial aid office at your institution.

### **Servicemembers Opportunities Colleges**

This consortium of colleges and universities provides educational opportunities for service members and their families.

**(800) 368-5622 or (202) 667-0079**

## **OTHER BENEFITS**

### **Operation Recognition**

The program will award a state-endorsed high school diploma to any New Jersey Veteran who left a New Jersey high school to enter military service during World War II. This program has been extended to cover Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam era as well.

#### **Who qualifies:**

Current New Jersey Veteran.

Left a New Jersey High School to join the military between the dates of September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946, June 23, 1950 and January 31, 1955, or December 31, 1960 through May 7, 1975.

Honorably discharged.

All branches of service including Merchant Marine and Coast Guard are eligible.

Those who have earned a (GED) are also eligible.

Diplomas may also be issued posthumously. Surviving family members of eligible veterans are urged to apply.

#### **Required information:**

A copy of your DD-214 or discharge papers

The name and address of the high school you attended

The year you would have graduated

Your name, address and daytime phone number

#### **Send Request to:**

Operation Recognition–DVS-VBB

New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

## **INSURANCE**

### **VA Life Insurance**

*(800) 669-8477*

### **Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)**

*(800) 419-1473*

### **CHAMPVA**

Medical care for Veterans' dependents and survivors

*(800) 733-8387*

## **HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES**

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will annually issue the following items free to each qualified Disabled Veteran: a fire arm, bow and arrow, fishing or all around hunting license, a pheasant and quail stamp and a trout stamp. New Jersey residents must be honorably discharged and declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected disability.

Contact: *(609) 292-2965*, Northern Region: *(908) 735-7040*, Southern Region: *(856) 629-0555*

## **VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

Certain Disabled Veterans may be entitled to exemptions from registration and plate fees. Contact the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Services *(609) 292-6500*.

## MEDALS

### **New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal (NJDSM)**

Criteria: Must be an honorably discharged Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States; served in time of war or national emergency in a combat theater of operation; a resident or former resident of the State of New Jersey who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active military service or who has been a resident of this State for at least 20 years in the aggregate.

Recipients whose service was recognized by the award of a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent receive the NJDSM with a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster. Posthumous awards are authorized.



### **New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal (NJMSM)**

Criteria: Must be an honorably discharged Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States; served in time of war or national emergency in a combat theater of operation; a non-resident of the State of New Jersey upon entry on Active Duty; or a current resident of New Jersey having resided in the state for at least the past 5 years. Posthumous awards are authorized.

### **New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal (NJVSM)**

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. In addition, it requires military service in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after December 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975. Posthumous awards are authorized.

### **New Jersey Korean Service Medal (NJKSM)**

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. In addition, it requires military service in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955. Posthumous awards are authorized.

### **New Jersey POW/MIA Service Medal (NJ POW/MIA)**

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Department of Defense. Posthumous awards are authorized.

Individuals applying for the award must forward a completed NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Application for Award/Program form, or a similar request in writing along with a copy of the service member's DD Form 214 (Separation from Active Duty) attesting to the fact that an Honorable Discharge was granted.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at:  
**(609) 530-6954.**

## NEW JERSEY CATASTROPHIC ENTITLEMENT

Eligible Veterans/surviving spouses receive a monthly entitlement of \$62.50.

Criteria: A Veteran must be a New Jersey resident in receipt of a permanent service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that resulted from wartime service resulting in one of the following catastrophic disabilities resulting in a 100% rating: loss of sight; amputation of both hands, both feet or one hand and one foot; hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm on either side of the body; paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body; osteochondritis and permanent loss of use of both legs; multiple sclerosis and the loss of use of both feet or both legs; quadriplegia.

For more information contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6954**.

## NEW JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Assists Veterans in need of transportation. Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers and clinics, other hospitals, private physicians, VA Regional Office and local Veteran Service Offices. Contact your local Veterans Service Officer to make arrangements. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(609) 530-6949**.

## VETERANS HEALTHCARE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs manages three state-of-the-art long-term nursing facilities.



### Memorial Home at Paramus

1 Veterans Drive, PO Box 608  
Paramus, NJ 07653-0608  
**(201) 634-8525**



### Memorial Home at Menlo Park

132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013  
Edison, NJ 08818-3013  
**(732) 452-4102**



### Memorial Home at Vineland

524 North West Blvd  
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895  
**(856) 405-4200**

Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, or Certified Nurses Aides interested in employment at one of the three New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes please call **(609) 530-6767**.

## DEATH, BURIAL AND RELATED BENEFITS

### New Jersey Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Free interment and perpetual care is available to Veteran residents of New Jersey, their spouses and dependent children. Pre-registration encouraged.

350 Province Line Road  
Wrightstown, NJ 08562  
**(609) 738-2400**

Eligibility for Federal VA burial and death benefits: Call your local Veteran Service Office or contact the VA at **(800) 827-1000**.

## VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES (VSO)

### State Supervisor

*(609) 530-6830/7050/6863*

### Newark Liaison Office

20 Washington Place  
Newark, NJ 07102-3174  
*(973) 297-3230/Fax: (973) 648-2356*

### Atlantic/Cape May (VSO)

Atlantic City Armory, 1008 Absecon Boulevard  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
*(609) 441-3060 / 3061/Fax: (609) 441-3899*

### Bergen/Passaic (VSO )

125 State Street, Suite #109,  
Hackensack, NJ 07601-5435  
*(201) 996-8050 / 8051/ Fax: (201) 996-8009*

### Burlington (VSO)

555 High Street, Suite #6A  
Mt Holly, NJ 08060  
*(609) 518-2273 / 2274 / Fax: (609) 518-2275*

### Camden/Gloucester (VSO)

Woodbury Armory  
658 N Evergreen Avenue  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
*(856) 853-4184 / 4185 / 4186- Fax: (856) 384-3781*

### Essex/Union (VSO)

20 Washington Place, Room #431  
Newark, NJ 07102  
*(973) 297-3336 / Fax: (973) 642-0830*

### Hudson (VSO)

Jersey City Armory, 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
*(201) 536-3401 / Fax: (201) 536-3404*

### Mercer (VSO)

151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room #136  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
*(609) 671-6697 / 6696/ Fax: (609) 671-6698*

### Middlesex/Somerset (VSO)

1060 Hamilton Street  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
*(732) 937-6347 / 6348 / Fax: (732) 937-6417*

**Monmouth (VSO)**

630 Bangs Avenue, Suite #320  
Asbury Park, NJ 07712  
*(732) 775-7009 / 7005 / Fax: (732) 775-3612*

**Ocean (VSO)**

James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic  
970 Route 70  
Brick, NJ 08724  
*(732) 840-3033 / 3034 / Fax: (732) 840-0399*

**Salem/Cumberland (VSO)**

524 Northwest Boulevard,  
Vineland, NJ 08360  
*(856) 405-4388 / 4390 / 4389 / Fax: (856) 696-6499*

**Sussex/Morris (VSO)**

479 W Clinton Street  
Dover, NJ 07801  
*(973) 366-0245 / 8347 / Fax: (973) 366-0360*

**Warren/Hunterdon (VSO)**

550 A Route 57  
Port Murray, NJ 07865  
*(908) 689-5840 / 5845 / Fax: (908) 689-5879*



# I OWE YOU!

**VETERANS,  
YOU MAY BE  
ABLE TO  
RECEIVE  
BENEFITS  
YOU'RE  
NOT EVEN  
AWARE  
OF!**

**[www.nj.gov/military/veterans](http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans)**

**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387)**

2nd Ed., November 2014